

Message Text

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20

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8684

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, BU

SUBJECT: TREASON TRIAL

1. SUMMARY. IN SIGNED COLUMN SEPTEMBER 25 RABOTNICHESKO DELO REPORTS THAT BORIS ARSOV ILIEV WAS SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS IMPRISONMENT FOR ACTIVITIES AGAINST THE STATE. BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON ILIEV IN ARTICLE IS VAGUE AND LEAVES UNANSWERED QUESTIONS. SUBDUED HANDLING OF CASE DOES NOT INDICATE IT WILL BE USED AS SOVIET COUNTERBALANCE IN YU-GOSLAV "COMINFORMIST" AFFAIR. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO COLUMN ENTITLED "END OF THE 'CHIEF'", ILIEV, 59 YEARS OLD AND SOFIA RESIDENT, HAD BEEN SENTENCED TO SIX YEARS IMPRISONMENT FOR ANTI-REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES IN 1962, BUT HAD BEEN RELEASED IN 1964. UNREFORMED, HOWEVER, HE CONTINUED HIS FASCIST PROCLIVITIES AND IN 1970, ALONG WITH A "CRIMINALLY INCLINED YOUTH", NIKOLAI KITOV, LEFT BULGARIA. HE THEN WANDERED FROM COUNTRY

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TO COUNTRY MEETING WITH LEADERS (SLAVENOV, DOCHEV,

PAPRIKOV) OF EMIGREE ORGANIZATIONS WHO WERE IN REALITY FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE AGENTS. AT SOME POINT HE FOUNDED "BULGARIAN REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE" WHICH WAS LATER CHANGED TO "UNION OF BULGARIAN REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEES" AND DESIGNATED HIMSELF "CHIEF". ILIEV'S BULLETIN CALLED "LEVSKY" WAS SENT TO ADDRESSES TAKEN FROM THE SOFIA TELEPHONE DIRECTORY. THE BULLETIN LISTED ESPIONAGE AND BLACK-MAIL OF BULGARIAN CITIZENS ABROAD AS TASKS OF THE ILIEV ORGANIZATION.

3. FROM THE CONTEXT OF THE ARTICLE THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT THIS WAS A TRIAL IN ABSENTIA, SO INTERESTING QUESTION ARISES AS TO WHY, WHEN, AND HOW ILIEV RETURNED TO BULGARIA. NATURE OF HIS ACTIVITIES IN BULGARIA IS VAGUE, BUT REFERENCE IS MADE TO CREATION OF AN "ARMY OF DOOMED" COMPRISED OF "YOUNG, DESPAIRING PEOPLE". THE FOREIGN COUNTRIES WHERE ILIEV SPENT TIME ARE NOT SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFIED, EXCEPT FOR MENTION THAT SOME COMPATRIOTS ARE STILL IN JAIL IN DENMARK AND SWITZERLAND FOR "THEFTS AND MURDERS".

4. CASE WAS NOT HANDLED AS SHOW TRIAL AND APPEARS FINISHED. ARTICLE CONCLUDES "ILL-FATED END OF SELF-STYLED 'CHIEF' IS OBVIOUS EVIDENCE OF FAILURE OF ALL ATTEMPTS TO DISTURB PEACEFUL LIFE OF OUR COUNTRY". UNLESS DRAMATIC REVELATIONS ARE PLANNED FOR FUTURE, GOVERNMENT APPARENTLY DOES NOT INTEND TO USE CASE FOR ATTACKING ANY SPECIFIC GROUP OR COUNTRIES. SUSPICION THAT AFFAIR MIGHT BE BACK-FIRE FOR SOVIET UNION IN YUGOSLAV "COMINFORMIST" AFFAIR THEREFORE FALLS BY WAYSIDE FOR TIME BEING.
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